THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) There are 5 Akashwani Centres in Chhattisgarh State.

(b) One Akashwani Centre at Saraipalli is ready for commissioning. Another Akashwani Centre at Bijapur is envisaged to be set up during the Tenth Plan, subject to approval and availability of funds.

Setting-up of Censor Board for TV serials

515. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a separate Censor Board for television serials considering that they are spoiling the minds of the youth;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) All the programmes telecast on Doordarshan are previewed before telecast in accordance with the provisions of Doordarshan's Broadcast Code to ensure that they are suitable for family viewing.

As regards programmes of Satellite Channels, as per the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, programmes of such Channels, when transmitted through cable networks, are required to adhere to the prescribed Programme and Advertisement Codes.

Conversion of DD Metro Channel into Satellite Channel

516. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prasar Bharati proposes to convert its entertainment channel DD Metro into satellite channel;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Expert Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Shri R.C. Mishra for developing business models for channels under Prasar Bharati has submitted its Report;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Amendment in the Cable Network Regulation Act, 1995

517. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have introduced a Bill to amend the Cable Network Regulation Act, 1995;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed legislation;

(c) by when the legislation is likely to come into force; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to protect the cable consumers against the monopolistic domination of the cable operators?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A Bill to amend the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 has been passed by the Lok Sabha on 15.5.2002 and is with the Rajya Sabha for consideration. The Bill, *inter alia*, seeks to mandate the viewing of pay channels through an addressable system. It empowers the Government to notify from time to time and place to place, the maximum subscription charge of the basic tier of free to air channels. The objective is to ensure that every subscriber receives at least a minimum number of free to air channels of different genres at a reasonable cost. The system is expected to be in the interest of consumers, cable service providers as well as broadcasters. It will bring in transparency in the figures of viewership, and will allow the consumers to choose and pay for the channel(s) they wish to watch.